



January 14, 2004

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Now is the Time to Choose Program; D.T.E. 03-123

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company (together "Mass. Electric") hereby withdraw the request for Department action on the *Now is the Time to Choose* Program.

On October 30, 2003, Mass. Electric requested Department approval of the *Now is the Time to Choose* Program, which was designed to provide Standard Offer Service customers with information about other offers that might be available on the market. On December 12, 2003, Mass. Electric requested that the Department defer action on the proposal until January 14, 2004 in order to give Mass. Electric and its Standard Offer Service wholesale suppliers an opportunity to address concerns that these suppliers had about the program. By this letter, Mass. Electric hereby withdraws its request for Department action on the *Now is the Time to Choose* Program. As Mass. Electric noted in its December 19, 2003 letter in this docket, recent increases in energy prices, particularly natural gas, have pushed wholesale electricity prices higher. The gap between the Standard Offer Service rates and wholesale electricity prices has narrowed or disappeared, reducing the opportunity for customer savings that was originally envisioned when Mass. Electric first made its *Now is the Time to Choose* filing.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Thomas G. Robinson
Amy G. Rabinowitz

cc: Service List

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